

21F.067 Cultural Performances of Asia
Prof. Ian Condry
Fall 2005

Essay 1: Anime as Japanese global culture

Please choose one (1) of the following topics and write a 5-page (double-spaced) essay.

- 1) In what ways does anime represent “Japanese culture”? In what ways is anime part of a “global culture”?
- 2) Does Japanese anime contest Western cultural hegemony? If so, how? If not, why not?
- 3) Is Pokemon more or less Japanese than other anime? Please choose at least two contrasting examples of anime from Napier’s book and discuss.
- 4) Is there something that distinguishes anime as “modern” Japanese culture in comparison with some of the more traditional forms of Asian culture we have considered thus far (cockfight, King of Masks, Beijing Opera, etc.)? Some people argue, for example, that modern Asian culture is more “Westernized”? Do you agree? Please use specific examples to make your case.

If you would like to propose an alternative topic, you may do so, provided you first get approval of your topic from me.

Please review the syllabus to remind yourself of the standards for grading the papers. Although you may also incorporate outside research or personal experiences, I would like you to focus the majority of your paper on materials that we have read, discussed or viewed in class (including the Beijing Opera).